Federal Funds - 1936

Arkanas Resettlement Area Project.

Purchase Land for Negro Resettlement Project

HELENA, Ark.—Three tracts of land at Lake View totalling 2407 acres have been purchased at $51,293 by the Rural Resettlement administration for a Negro project. About 61 Negro farm families, taken from rehabilitation clients, tenants and sharecroppers, will be located at Lake View.

The administration also has accepted for purchase five more tracts totalling 3205 acres valued at $78,502, but the sale has not been completed.

Federal Funds - 1936

Federal Home Loan Banks.

Land Bank Loans Now Being Repaid

Notwithstanding postponement privileges provided by Congress a few years ago, thousands of farmers in the Fifth Federal Land Bank District, which comprises Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, have resumed payment of principal on their Federal Land Bank loans this year, it was announced yesterday by Edward B. Green, president of the institution.

12-13-36

According to his figures, regular and special payments on the 50,000 or more Federal Land Bank loans, which make up about 35 per cent of the farm mortgage debt in the fifth district, aggregated $1,852,000 during the first nine months of 1936. This amount is said to have exceeded by more than $1,200,000 the normal principal installments maturing in the period.

"Farmers in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana have been living up to their reputation for meeting their obligations," President Green stated. "Borrowers from the Federal Land Bank have been making good progress in their return to normal. While not all borrowers were able to resume their principal payments this year, it is an encouraging fact, however, that payments remitted exceeded regular amortization payments by more than a million and two hundred thousand dollars. This record of payment is a good indication that prosperity is returning to the farmers of these three States."

Deferment of principal payments on most Federal Land Bank loans was first provided by the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of 1933. Otherwise, normal or regular principal payments falling due in these three States during the first nine months of 1936 would have amounted to $564,314.

Of the $1,852,000 of principal actually paid in during the period, $1,046,000 consisted of regular principal installments and special payments, while $806,000 was remitted in payment of loans in full, it was reported.

Federal Funds - 1936

Resettlement Administration

FARM TENANCY PLAN STUDIED TO REVIVE RA

Program To Buy Land Under Federal Consideration

CONGRESS MUST ACT FIRST

9-14-36

Wallace Believes Sharecroppers Should Show Ability To Manage Own Affairs Before Gaining Title To Property

BY ED WERKMAN

United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—A new farm tenancy program contemplated by the administration may inject life into the fading Resettlement Administration, it was learned today.

Administration leaders pointed out the availability of RA to administer any program that would extend farm-buying opportunities to the 2,865,000 farmers now classed as tenants and sharecroppers.

At the last session of Congress Senator Bankhead and Representative Jones urged enactment of a farm tenant bill that would set up a corporation to administer a program. The administration has favored the government obtaining farm property for resale to tenants on easy terms. The Bankhead bill was passed by the Senate, but failed to reach a vote in the House.

On Modest Scale

Such a program should be started, the administration feels, on a lesser scale than the billion dollars originally called for in the Bankhead-Jones bill.

"I doubt whether the government should do more, in the beginning at least, than enable tenants who can manage their own affairs to buy land on reasonable terms," Secretary Wallace said. "Title to the land should not pass until the tenant has demonstrated his ability to manage his farm and hold it."

Paul Appleby, secretary to Wallace, has suggested that RA has the organization and personnel to handle any modest farm-buying program that Congress might approve.

With the RA now engaged in moving 1,000 tenant farmers to farms of their own through the granting of financial aid and technical farm advice, most of the land use experts of the Department of Agriculture have been transferred to the RA.

The oft-criticized RA, headed by Rexford Tugwell, was created in April, 1935, by executive order of president Roosevelt. Taken over by the RA, which was granted life under the order until June 30, 1937, were the rural rehabilitation work of the FRA; the subsistence homestead division of the Department of Interior, the land policy section of the AAA, and the farm debt adjustment program of the FCA.

Lack of funds, need of money for drouth relief work and a general over-staffed condition resulted recently in RA abandoning 30 approved resettlement projects on which no construction was started, drastically curtailing rehabilitation loans and cutting the personnel from a peak of 19,544 employes June 1, to 13,815 on Sept. 1.

No Liquidation

RA officials brand as "the bunk" speculation that the retrenchment program means a liquidation of the agency. They do not profess to know, however, whether presidential or congressional action will prolong the life of RA beyond June 30.

Wallace is anxious to attack the problem of farm tenancy. For the first time in the history of the country, the 1935 farm census showed a slight decline in the percentage of tenancy, the figures being 42.4 per cent in 1930 to 42.1 per cent in 1935. But the natural increase in population also resulted in the number of farm tenants increasing about 200,000 in those five years.

While publicity on the farm tenant problem usually has been focused on the cotton states, census figures show that tenancy has been increasing steadily in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and other farm states.

60 RA EXECUTIVES HOLD PARLEY HERE

Move To Speed Settling Of 100 Alabama Tenant Farmers On Own Land

To hasten action towards establishment of 1,000 tenant farmers on their own farms in the South, of which 100 will be in Alabama, more than 60 officials of the Resettlement Administration from Southern States and Washington, D. C., met yesterday at the Gay-Teague Hotel here and discussed plans which centered about a suggested "decentralization of authority."

Farm tenant security officers have been appointed in each of the ten States in which the project has been established it was said, and these officers are to report to regional offices of the Resettlement Administration. It was to devise procedure for decentralizing authority in approval of plans and coordinating the activities of the resettlement division with those of other divisions, in developing the projects that yesterday's session was called.

Concentration of responsibility for approval of plans, as well as prosecution of the program in regional offices, such as the Montgomery office, rather than in Washington, was sought in the discussions.

Besides Walter Packard, of Washington, director of the Rural Resettlement division D. P. Trent of Dallas, Texas, director of Region Eight, R. W. Hudgens, director of Region Five, which includes Alabama, and representatives of resettlement offices in ten Southern states and Washington, D. C., were at yesterday's meeting. About 50 of these officials left immediately afterwards for South Alabama for an inspection tour of several farms which may be purchased for farm tenant security projects. They were scheduled to spend the night in Dothan, continue their tour today, and return here Wednesday.

The objective of the tenant security project, according to Mr. Hudgens, is to determine whether government-sponsored farm purchases by observing farmers of the best qualifications may point the way to further action that may tend to correct social evils accompanying the increase of farm tenancy in the South.

According to present plans, 100 Alabama tenant farmers will be chosen from all parts of the State for this experiment. Their selection will be based on recommendations of citizens of their own counties, including county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents, resettlement farm and home supervisors, and businessmen and neighbors. Farms will be purchased by the government for those whose applications are approved and sold to the chosen tenant farmers on reasonable purchase contracts allowing many years for repayment at low interest.

The same plan is provided for Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas under the 1935 agency appropriation act.

RESETTLEMENT WORK RECEIVES MORE FUNDS

Tugwell Announces New Money Is To Complete Projects Begun.

10-11-36

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—(AP)—Rexford G. Tugwell announced today that President Roosevelt had handed his Resettlement Administration an additional $33,000,000 of federal relief funds to complete "projects already underway and carry on "drouth emergency activities."

The allocation brought to $307,000,000 the total made available to the agency since July, 1935, when it was set up by presidential order. Reports were recently published that the Resettlement Administration was being liquidated.

An administration statement said that $20,000,000 of the new allocation would be used to complete construction of 57 rural resettlement projects in 29 states; that $3,000,000 would be used to build farm homes on the outskirts of three large government-built communities known as "suburban resettlement projects;" and that $10,000,000 would be set up as a loan and grant fund for drouth victims and other rural rehabilitation.

Resettlement spokesmen said the 60 projects for which funds were assigned today were not a complete list of those that would be continued. They said additional projects would be listed for completion as funds were made available.

The new allocation, officials said, came from $85,000,000 earmarked by congress for "rural rehabilitation" in the last relief appropriation.

The resettlement communities at Greenbelt, near here; Greenhills, near Cincinnati, and Greendale, near Milwaukee, each were assigned $1,000,000 of the newly available money, for "construction of farmstead units."

Official spokesmen said about $7,000,000 already had been spent on each of the communities. When completed, they said, two of them will house 1,000 "low income" families each and the Milwaukee project 750 families.

RESETTLEMENT WORK DEFENDED BY TUGWELL

New Deal Official Asserts 76.5 Pct. of Money Due on Loans Repaid.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—(AP)—In one of the few statements he has issued this year, Rexford G. Tugwell hit out today at critics of the Resettlement Administration with an assertion that "the record of collections answers once and for all prejudiced and partisan criticism" of the agency.

Announcing that 76.5 per cent of money due on rehabilitation loans had been repaid on October 31, Tugwell said that answered charges that "through these loans the government is throwing its money to the wind."

"In my opinion," he added, "the preponderant majority of farmers under the rehabilitation program will pay out their debts 100 per cent."

He said that of $8,552,688 principal due on loans at the start of this month, $6,543,897 had been collected.

Total loans to farmers from federal relief funds by the Tugwell agency since its organization in July last year, were said in aggregate $87,066,409 to more than 350,000 farm families.

The loans were made for from one to five years with interest of only two to five per cent, spokesmen said. The repayments involve only principal, they added.

Tugwell asserted the "practical success" of the program was demonstrated by "these healthy collection figures." He added that loans went to farmers "who had been unable to obtain credit elsewhere to carry on normal farming operations."

"The figures are more startling when we consider the fact that the farmers receiving these loans were principally relief cases," he said.

Collections "would have been much higher," Tugwell added, if the summer drouth had not caused delinquency in some areas.

He said the loan program had brought "better economic health to hundreds of thousands of farmers in practically every state of the Union," and in the long run would prove "much less expensive than relief."

"The business-like administration of these loans is making many farmers self-respecting and self-sustaining," he asserted.

NEW STORM RISES AROUND TUGWELL

His Move to Transfer RA to Agriculture Branch Reopens Old Right-Left Row.

WALLACE IS 'RELUCTANT'

11-14-36

But Roosevelt Is Reported Sympathetic to Plan—Foes Fear Effect in South.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Rexford G. Tugwell, Under-Secretary of Agriculture, head of the Resettlement Administration and original "brain truster," has become the central figure in another undercover fight within the Roosevelt

administration revolving around his proposal that the Resettlement agency be permanently incorporated in the set-up of the Department of Agriculture.

Opposed to the move, in support of which Dr. Tugwell has personally appealed to President Roosevelt, are a group of followers of Chester C. Davis, former AAA Administrator and now member of the Federal Reserve Board. These men, numbering AAA and departmental officials, express fears that Mr. Tugwell's return to active duty within the department may mean a resumption of the feud between the left and right wings that ended two years ago with the AAA "urge."

It was then that Mr. Davis brought about the resignations of several high AAA officials and that Mr. Tugwell disassociated himself from matters of agricultural policy in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Since that time he has devoted most of his time to the Resettlement Administration and drought relief, spending only a few hours of the morning at the department.

Wallace Not Yet Involved

At the edge of the present trouble and not yet drawn into it stands Secretary Wallace, who must soon decide whether he wants the RA within his department or continued as an independent emergency agency.

Although so far he has not taken a stand, the Secretary is known to be "reluctant" to sanction the transfer. He is being subjected, it is understood, to considerable pressure by groups both for and against the move.

Another factor is the pending reorganization of Federal bureaus and the prevalent understanding that President Roosevelt is at least sympathetic to the transfer of the RA to the department.

A series of moves engineered by sponsors of the Tugwell proposal have been undertaken with a view to popularizing the RA programs in the public mind and overcoming opposition to the idea within the department.

The first of these, in the view of observers, occurred today with President Roosevelt's inspection trip to the Greenbelt housing project just outside of Washington where, accompanied by newspaper and camera men, he praised the work already completed and expressed the wish that every community could be provided with a similar project.

Secretary Begins Inspection

The second bit of spade work appeared in the departure tonight of Secretary Wallace for the South where, with Mr. Tugwell, he will personally inspect a number of resettlement projects in six Southern States, from Arkansas to Florida. The Secretary will begin this journey next Tuesday after addressing a meeting of land grant colleges at Houston, Texas.

Resettlement Administration officials and others sympathetic to Mr. Tugwell's plan of transferring the agency to the Department of Agriculture conceded today that they hoped Secretary Wallace would feel much less reluctant to seeing the plan carried out after witnessing some of the work being done by the RA among tenants and sharecroppers of the cotton States.

It was originally planned, according to the RA, that Secretary Wallace would dedicate the Wright plantation project near Pine Bluff, Ark., at a ceremony there early next week. The latest word from the Secretary's office today, however, was that he would only participate in the ceremony and make a speech, leaving the actual dedicating to some other official from Washington.

Mr. Wallace, while "reluctant" to see the transfer of the RA to his department, recently indicated that he would approve the move if he could state his own terms and have a free hand in selecting what parts of the agency should be brought into the department. He said at his last press conference he supposed any reorganizing committee would find that most of the RA belonged in his department.

Status of the Agency

On the other hand, Mr. Tugwell is understood to contemplate the transfer of his agency in its entirety, and himself at its head, to the department. Under the Relief Act of 1935, by which the agency was set up, it was to terminate on June 30, 1937, and all unexpended funds were then to be no longer available to it.

Recently the RA has been operating on a hand-to-mouth basis with funds alloted to it from the WPA. At the last session of Congress more funds for the Resettlement program were denied to Mr. Tugwell and the agency has largely confined its activities since then to drought relief with WPA money. As a part of the Department of Agriculture, its chances of obtaining new funds would be much improved.

Not the least important reason for opposition of agricultural officials to the proposed transfer is the effect it might have on the long range farm program. It is conceded by departmental and AAA officials that if Mr. Tugwell again became active in the department as head of a resettlement division, he would naturally administer the contemplated tenant-relief program.

Knowing the aggressive manner in which Mr. Tugwell has tackled social problems in the past, those opposed to his proposal declare they fear he might administer the tenant aid program in a manner which might antagonize Southern planters and others in the cotton States, where the share-cropper problem is always present.

Such a development, according to opponents of the transfer, might have far-reaching and adverse effects on the ability of the AAA to continue enjoying the cooperation of planters. Some of the most influential of these have in the past displayed a distinct lack of enthusiasm for the Resettlement program, but this attitude was never displayed in connection with AAA programs.

Dr. Alexander's Appointment, A Friendly Gesture

IN the recent appointment of Dr. Will W. Alexander, whose name is a fireside word in every colored home in the South, to the powerful post of Resettlement chief, succeeding Professor Rexford G. Tugwell in the agricultural department the Roosevelt administration makes the most important gesture of friendship of its whole career. As is known Dr. Alexander is executive head of the interracial commission having headquarters in Atlanta.

For nearly a generation he has stood head and shoulder for the rights of the forgotten and oppressed. Dr. Will Alexander came on the scene for social and legal justice when it meant much for so great a character to place himself on the spot for great fairness.

In nearly every activity touching our people in this city and section Dr. Alexander has made himself active. He is one of those fine white men who took nobody's word about the Negro. It was his to do his own navigation for which he has never offered an apology. His face has been a regular fixture at our events here and at no time has he turned a deaf ear to any cause in which our group was affected.

Dr. Alexander, as will be recalled, was appointed acting President of the new Dillard University. He served there throughout the organization and stayed with the university until it was well on the road.

Since that time he has served on the resettlement board. His work has been felt throughout the nation and as he comes to the head of that powerful organization, the public at large looks hopeful for that same vigorous procedure that has marked his every trend in other affairs in which he has cast his lot.

Our group can look to Dr. Alexander for a fair consideration in the resettlement program. No man in the country is better acquainted with the condition of the colored group in America. No man would deal more justly by them and it goes without saying that Dr. Alexander came to the post because of his known fairness and sympathies for the colored group.

Therefore the New Deal set-up is in line for an ovation for this powerful gesture, almost the same as if it had appointed a colored man to the post. In fact, the race will expect and will get possibly more than if the latter had been the case.

Dr. Alexander is to be congratulated. The race is grateful and encouraged in seeing their real friends placed in charge of affairs touching so vitally their interests.

Resettlement Administration.

Federal Funds - 1936

In Washington
With
GEORGE MORRIS

Concerning Alexander

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—Eleven of the 48 states have farm populations in excess of a million each. Omitting three, Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio, where the percentages is relatively small, and including two, Oklahoma and Texas, there are eight states, all southern, where the percentage of tenancy ranges from 46 in Tennessee to 71 in Mississippi. That situation automatically makes any policy the government may adopt in its attempt to transform tenants into farm owners particularly and almost exclusively a southern program.

It brings to the forefront, also, the question as to whether the Resettlement Administration, destined to be taken under the wing of the Department of Agriculture, will administer prospective tenancy legislation in accordance with the policy adopted by Dr. Tugwell, or along the more conservative ideas of Secretary Wallace. As an independent agency, the Resettlement Administration has been conducted solely according to the ideas of Dr. Tugwell. As an agency of the Department of Agriculture, it is more than probable that it will be administered by direction of Mr. Wallace, rather than according to the point of view of Dr. Tugwell's successor.

Current rumor that W. W. Alexander, assistant to Dr. Tugwell, will be his successor, sends Department of Agriculture officials and southern members of Congress scurrying to the records to ascertain what manner of person Mr. Alexander is. The importance of the agency, which has spent the larger part of its $360,000,000 allotment, and has 14,000 employes on the pay roll, is not to be overestimated when it is understood that contemplated tenancy legislation will require as much as $50,000,000 a year for 10 years, at least, and probably longer. There is also the necessity for going to Congress for additional funds with which to carry on and expand the present program.

A little volume being perused avidly in the Department of Agriculture throws considerable light on Mr. Alexander and his co-authors, Prof. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. and Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, Chicago. The volume is entitled: "The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy," and was printed in 1935 by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C.

The conclusion of the authors regarding cotton tenancy in the southern cotton belt is that it is "our greatest social humiliation." Cotton farmers, they declare, although they add a billion dollars annually to the wealth of the world, are the most impoverished and backward of all the large groups of producers in America. The merchants who charge "interest plus a time price which amounts to 50 per cent" go broke on that basis, and among the landowners there is "considerable feeling that anything which disturbs the dependent status of the cropper is undesirable."

The cultural landscape of the southern region is called "a miserable panorama of unpainted shacks, rain-gullied fields, straggling fences, rattletrap Fords, dirt, poverty, disease, drudgery and monotony." The volume is replete with narratives, gathered from tenants, of which the following is typical: At annual settlement time the tenant offered five bales of cotton and was told, after some owl-eyed figuring, that this cotton exactly balanced the debt. Delighted at the prospect of a profit that year, the tenant reported that he had one more bale which he had not brought. "Shucks," shouted the boss, "why didn't you tell me that before? Now I'll have to figure the account all over again to make it come out even."

"Submerged beneath the system which he supports," the authors declare, "the cotton tenant's standard of living approaches the level of bare animal existence. For the type of labor he performs, all that is actually required is a stomach indifferently filled, a shack to sleep in, some old jeans to cover his nakedness." A chapter devoted to the tenant under recovery has a subtitle: "Benefits for owners and relief for tenants," in which it is claimed that the larger the benefits from the AAA to the landowner, the greater the amount required for tenant relief. Written at the time the AAA was in operation and advocated and defended by Secretary Wallace, the authors declare that "the government under the AAA has assumed many of the risks of the landowners and thrown them on the tenant. It is," they declare, "the blunt truth to say that under the present system the landowner is more and more protected from risk by government activity, while the tenant is left open to risks on every side." The reason for "the wholesale neglect of the tenant lies in the fact that the AAA organized its program under the direction of the planters themselves. The AAA as finally administered met the landlord's approval."

The authors, Prof. Johnson, Mr. Embree and Mr. Alexander, are members of the president's special committee to draft legislation on tenancy.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
November 29, 1936

A Merited Promotion

NEW ORLEANS friends and admirers of Dr. Will W. Alexander welcome the report that he will be named federal resettlement administrator to succeed Professor Tugwell, who has announced his own retirement. Dr. Alexander at present is serving as Professor Tugwell's assistant and his promotion will be strictly upon the basis of merit and proven competence. None who know him and his work will doubt his capacity for exceptionally fine service in the resettlement field.

A graduate of Vanderbilt university, Dr. Alexander began his career as a Methodist pastor, but resigned his pastorate to engage in army welfare work when the United States entered the World war. His work among the negro troops in Southern cantonments quickened his interest in their racial welfare. He won first national and then international attention by his skilful leadership of co-operative and interracial movements to promote the general welfare by bettering the condition of Southern negroes. His counsel on interracial problems was sought abroad. President Hoover drafted him for service on welfare and educational committees. In 1931 he was elected president of Dillard university, here in New Orleans.

His brilliant service to that local institution won Dr. Alexander many friends and admirers in New Orleans and enhanced his national reputation, already well established. In March last he resigned the university presidency to join the federal resettlement administration. Now comes the news of his impending promotion to its leadership. No better selection could be made, in our belief. Its confirmation will be applauded throughout the South.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
November 30, 1936

Alexander, Administrator

The South's whole future obviously is inextricably bound up with the destiny of her present tenant farmers and sharecroppers. More and more it becomes evident that what is to be done about this overshadowing problem will largely be answered in the Resettlement Administration. It is to be the working ground, so to speak, for a broad, resolute and, it might be added, utterly imperative, effort to deal with this problem squarely and powerfully.

In view of these plain facts, the South may particularly rejoice that the successor of Dr. Rexford Tugwell, who has resigned as resettlement administrator, is to be so able a man as Dr. W. W. Alexander.

In Dr. Alexander, the South already knows, particularly through his work as executive director of the Commission on Inter-Racial Cooperation, are combined in extraordinary balance those essential spiritual qualities of understanding, sympathy, vision and intellect and those equally essential qualities of experience; perspective, practical administrative power and the knowledge and determination to comprehend and stay with a vast undertaking that will exact years of devotion and still remain unfinished.

It is an event of the first importance that this man of the South will now take up this first problem of the South.

This sketch of Dr. Alexander from a recent editorial in *The Atlanta Constitution* will be especially interesting just now:

A native of Missouri, he attended Vanderbilt University, where he obtained his B. A. degree. He has been a licensed minister of the Methodist Church, South, since 1901, and filled pastorates in Tennessee until the World War, during which he was associate executive secretary of the southeastern military department of the Army Y. M. C. A.

Since the close of the war Dr. Alexander has been prominently identified, nationally and internationally, with various commissions engaged in the study of race problems and movements for bettering health, mental and economic condition of the underprivileged, especially in the rural South.

Acknowledgment of his splendid work in these fields was accorded by Berea College and Boston University with the degree of D.D. In 1927 and in 1930 he received the LL.D. degree from Southern College.

Dr. Alexander will bring to his leadership of the Resettlement Administration more than an intellectuality seasoned by wide study and experience. He possesses an intimate understanding of the problems and characteristics of the class of people the Resettlement Administration is designed to benefit, and the handicaps they must overcome to become owners of small farms, managers of their own destinies and ultimately successful agriculturists.

It has been indicated that the Bankhead farm-tenant, sharecropper, landownership bill be revived in amended form at the coming session of the Congress, carrying provisions that, in effect, will extend the present experimental work of the Resettlement Administration, and in finding worthwhile recipients of this aid and fitting them into their new status in agricultural life Dr. Alexander's leadership will be invaluable.

With the president's Committee on **38 on Tenantry, this extraordinarily equipped man assumes a fateful responsibility and engages an incomparable opportunity.**

Federal Funds - 1936

Resettlement Administration.

TUGWELL PLANNING 40-YEAR TENANT AID FOR BUYING FARMS

James

Program Calls for an Outlay of $50,000,000 a Year for at Least a Decade.

11-15-36

MATTER 'UP TO CONGRESS'

New York Times

But RA Chief Expects Passage —Plan Would Help Thousands to Ownership.

LAST PAYMENT 40TH YEAR

Thus Mortgaging Would Be Prevented—Worn-Out Land in 44 States Optioned.

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—A far-reaching program to enable thousands of tenant farmers to become owners of their own lands, and calling for an expenditure of $50,000,000 a year "until the job is done," was outlined today by Rexford G. Tugwell, Under Secretary of Agriculture, and head of the Resettlement Administration.

While emphasizing that the matter was one for Congress to decide, Dr. Tugwell said that if called upon he would recommend the following:

1. A program of at least ten years' duration with an annual appropriation of $50,000,000 for financing tenants through Federal loans in their transition from tenancy to farm ownership.

2. Provision that farms acquired by the Federal agency administering the program should be leased to tenants for a trial period of five years, during which it could be determined whether they were able and willing to undertake purchase of the farm.

Last Payment After 40 Years

3. Allowance of a period of forty years for borrowing tenants to pay for their farms, but with payments during the first five years the same as during the amortization period and such payments considered installments on the principal of the tenant's debt.

4. Provision that tenants indebted to the Federal Government might repay their debt as rapidly as they desired, but that the last payment would not be receivable by the government until after the fortieth year so that the farm could not be mortgaged for forty years, thereby avoiding the risk of loss.

5. A requirement that the Federal administrative agency be empowered to compel subsistence farming practices by purchasing tenants and that they abide by farm management plans prescribed by the agency as best suited for land they operate.

Because of the alarming rate at which farm tenancy had increased in recent years in virtually all agricultural areas, and because of the popularity of similar work already done by the Resettlement Administration, Dr. Tugwell said he did not anticipate that the program he had in mind would encounter any great difficulty in passage in the next session of Congress.

Dual Objective in Program

The whole program would have the dual objective of soil conservation and security of tenure, Dr. Tugwell explained. Although not particularly designed for that region, he said the program would go far in the South to remedy the social and economic problems created by the prevalence of share-cropping. He saw no reason why the program would in any way interfere with large scale farming.

"It is a modern fetish that simple ownership is a sure remedy to the ills that beset the American farming establishment," he said. "While tenancy has been one of the chief contributing factors to the impoverishment of millions of acres of farm land throughout the country, ownership in itself will not supply the cure. Most important of all is security of tenure and a guarantee against the liability of loss of one's farm.

"A farmer takes better care of the land he operates if he owns it," Dr. Tugwell continued. "But were he pressed by the threat of foreclosure, it is only natural that the farmer should 'mine' his soil and take from it all that he can through intensive cultivation for a higher income."

Would Start on Small Scale

He stressed that by providing that farmers could not pay for their farms in less than forty years, the threat of foreclosure would be removed for at least that period of time.

"Then you would save the farmer from himself?" Dr. Tugwell was asked.

"And from the money-lender too," he replied.

If the program Dr. Tugwell has in mind is authorized by Congress it would be started off on a small scale, with applicants for Federal aid being selected from the Resettlement Administration's records of rehabilitation loan recipients.

"In that way," he said, "we will know beforehand what kind of farmers we are getting. We will have the record of their past performance, how regularly they made payments on their loans, and what are the chances of their becoming good owning farmers."

Dr. Tugwell simultaneously cited and challenged assertions sometimes heard in Congress from among Southern delegations, that the Resettlement Administration was "catering to the shiftless." Under the program we now have in mind such a tihng would be impossible, he added.

As a starter, about 10,000 tenant farmers in all parts of the country would be selected for eligibility to participate in the program. Through a number of rehabilitation cases in the South, the RA has discovered that a conscientious farmer can be established on a 65-acre farm, with buildings repaired and a large enough loan to equip him for operating it at a cost of a little over $4,000.

Short-time Program Opposed

Rather than rely too heavily on such a low figure, Dr. Tugwell explained, the RA had adopted an estimate f $5,000 as the cost of financing a farmer from tenancy to ownership. With the larger figure, he said, there would be enough to do a complete repair job on farm buildings and make a $500 loan for operating equipment.

Dr. Tugwell said he would oppose any such program as was contemplated by the Bankhead-Jones bill at the last session, whereby $500,000,000 would be appropriated and a tenant aid program launched on a large scale and rushed to completion in a relatively short time. If that were attempted it would seem almost inevitable that a loss of at least 20 per cent would be sustained, Dr. Tugwell said.

Quietly, but with a view to the broader program it hopes will be authorized at the next session of Congress, the Resettlement Administration already has made a start on its tenant aid plan. It was disclosed today that the agency has already obtained options on 1,000 good-to-excellent farms in ten Southern States embracing a total of 73,918 acres.

These farms have been set up as "demonstration projects" in order that the RA might learn from experience what to expect under any national program. It was in this way that the figure of $4,000 to $5,000 as the cost of financing a tenant to ownership was determined. In two States some of these farms are already occupied—seventy-four families in North Carolina and fifty-nine in Tennessee.

Dr. Tugwell explained, however, that virtually all would be occupied and in operation by Spring. They will cost the RA about $4,000,000 under the original demonstration plan. Because of the state of disrepair into which most of the farm buildings have fallen, however, the RA is contemplating the expenditure of another $1,000,000.

Farms Bought in South Listed

In Southern States farms purchased by the RA and the acreage in each State were given as follows:

	Farms.	Acreage.
North Carolina	100	7,596
South Carolina	75	5,786
Tennessee	60	5,073
Georgia	100	11,975
Alabama	100	10,953
Mississippi	100	4,937
Louisiana	100	5,094
Oklahoma	65	4,737
Texas	200	10,619
Arkansas	100	7,149

The RA had not announced its acquisition plans because of the possibility that the cost of the farms sought for purchase might thereby have been increased, it was explained.

About half of the farms acquired will be occupied by white and half by colored tenants in order that accurate figures may be obtained on relative costs.

Much of the land acquired was purchased from banks and insurance companies, some from retiring farmers and some from operators who had decided to split up their total acreage, according to the RA.

The cost per acre was about $30 or about $2,000 per farm excluding buildings. With these and an operating loan included, the cost per farm would be about $3,000, according to RA officials.

Submarginal Land Optioned

It was announced, meanwhile, by the agency that a total of over 9,000,000 acres of submarginal land had been placed under option under the RA's resettlement program in 44 States. The optioned land involves an expenditure of $39,916,603 or an average of $4.40 an acre, the lang being unsuitable for cultivation.

The program, entirely distinct from the tenant aid scheme, "is for the facilitating of maximum social readjustment as well as for conserving the land," Dr. Tugwell said.

"Although the RA's acquisition is substantial, it represents less than one tenth of all the poor farm land suggested for public purchase by land experts, indicating that this work is barely beginning if it is to have widespread and lasting remedial effect," he continued.

"There are 5,746 families remaining on this purchased land which will need aid in resettling. More than 2,000 have already been moved, and many others have moved without Resettlement Administration aid. Some were able to move with the money received from purchase of their land."

$100,000,000 for "Land Use"

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—Resettlement spokesmen said today that about $100,000,000 had been allotted to the "land use" program, with a large part of it for rehabilitation and development of land after acquisition.

Development work is going ahead on 141 of the land projects, Rexford G. Tugwell said, furnishing employment for 55,000 men from relief rolls.

Forty-six of these areas are being turned over to the National Parks Service for "recreational projects," while sixty-three are being utilized as wild life refuges by the Bureau of Biological Survey or for Indian rehabilitation projects under the Interior Department.

The largest project, Milk River Land in Northeast Montana, in the dry land area, comprises more than 900,000 acres or one-tenth of all the land acquired. Mr. Tugwell said that this region "tragically demonstrated its unsuitability for crop production," with many residents on relief.

This situation was "paralleled in all these land projects," he added.

Cost of the land, it was said, varied sharply "from the thickly populated areas of the Northeast to the drought-stricken area of the Great Plains."

The number of projects and the acreage which resettlement has bought or committed itself to buy were announced as follows by States:

Connecticut, one project totaling 10,186 acres; Delaware, one and 4,968; Maryland, three and 51,629; New York, four and 74,514; Pennsylvania, seven and 69,549.

Tugwell's Party Adds This State To Its Itinerary

Retiring Head Of RA To Pause In Montgomery With Secretary Wallace

Successor Along

Tour Presages Transfer Of Resettlement Work To Agriculture Department

Rexford Guy Tugwell, whose resignation as national administrator of the Resettlement Administration was announced in Washington yesterday, will include Montgomery in his Southern itinerary arriving here Sunday night with Secretary Wallace and W. W. Alexander, who has been chosen to succeed him.

Robert W. Hudgens, regional director who yesterday announced Tugwell's decision to visit Alabama, said he would join the administrator's party at Tuscaloosa Saturday and remain with it during its tour of this region which embraces Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

The presence of the secretary of agriculture in the party of the Resettlement Administration executive who is soon to retire from his government post, may be significant in view of Washington rumors that the RA will be absorbed into the Department of Agriculture early in the second Roosevelt term.

Reaching Alabama Saturday morning, Tugwell will inspect the administration's undertakings in upstate counties and will spend Saturday night and Sunday in Birmingham. The party will arrive in Montgomery Sunday night and will hasten away Monday morning to view the Coffee County homesteads. There he will see 126 farm units, built and occupied under the auspices of his administration. These are all new and are in addition to a number of rehabilitated farmsteads in the vicinity.

The regional office of the RA will invite the national administrator to view a model farm which it has assembled, following the pattern of a run-down homestead before and after its rehabilitation. This example of ingenuity is now in the architectural division of the regional office in the Scottish Rite Temple but will be moved to the main offices in the old Standard Club building in time for Tugwell's inspection.

After the Tugwell party completes its inspection of the Coffee County Homesteads it will cross into Georgia and then drop down into Florida before turning northward.

In view of reports that the Resettlement Administration would be taken into the Agriculture Department, it was believed that Secretary Wallace was coming along with Tugwell to view a domain that presently would become his.

In addition to Tugwell, Wallace, and Alexander, the party will include a half-dozen or more subordinates of the Resettlement Administration and the Department of Agriculture.

Capital Wonders Why Tugwell Is Retiring

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—(AP)—Announcement today that Rexford G. Tugwell soon will step out of the Roosevelt administration to become a molasses company executive stirred widespread speculation in the capital on its possible significance.

Reasons for the retirement of the young "brain truster" from his dual post as under secretary of agriculture and resettlement administrator were hidden in a carefully phrased exchange of letters given out by the White House.

Observers wondered whether a big salary in private industry had lured Tugwell from the New Deal, or whether President Roosevelt was beginning to shake-up his official family to get rid of some of those officials around whom criticism had centered.

They also asked themselves whether Tugwell was tired of being a target for criticism of the New Deal, or whether the chief executive had determined upon some change of policy that conflicted with the young administrator's views, although Tugwell in his resignation letter to the President expressed growing "confidence in your policies and in you."

These and many other questions were being asked here today after official announcement that Tugwell was leaving soon to become an executive of the American Molasses Company.

The youthful, handsome, dapper, official was one of the original group frequently called "brain trusters." At times he seemed to have a more intimate relationship with the President than many higher officials.

His work was frequently praised, particularly by "liberals" in Congress, but at the same time Tugwell had become the chief object of criticism from those whose contended the New Deal was "socialistic" or radical.

Letters Tell Little

There was no answer to the speculation in the letters given out by the White House.

Tugwell's letter of resignation to the President, only referred to "reasons which have been discussed between us more than once." The President's reply addressed to "Dear Rex," said, "I fully understand the reasons that make you feel you should for a time at least return to private life for a few months."

But the President praised Tugwell's service and said "I fully expect to ask you to come back to render additional service." Tugwell's letter had said that "if you ever have real need for me again I shall be on call."

Rumors of a Tugwell resignation have been bandied about the capital for months as the Resettlement Administration cut personnel, chopped off numerous projects, and apparently shaped itself for a shift to the Agricultural Department with an important place in the Roosevelt farm tenant plan.

But only yesterday Tugwell, smiling suavely and politely, dodged questions about his resignation.

Early today at Memphis, Tenn., he told reporters "I am going to leave the Government within a few weeks" and added that he had delayed his announcement "until after election."

Tugwell said that W. W. Alexander, former Methodist clergyman and sociologist who had been his chief administrator in Resettlement, would take over the reins of the New Deal agency.

Charles Taussig, head of the molasses company, announced in New York that Tugwell would join the organization and described the New Dealer as a "very excellent economist" and a "capable executive."

Molasses Man

"Behind the scenes flames a speculation whether debonair, urbane, Utopian Rexford Guy Tugwell will be the ace of the braintrusters in President Roosevelt's second Administration as he was in the first. Indications are that he will. . . . Tugwell's star blazes as brightly as ever. . . ."

So wrote Correspondent Walker S. Buel, so published the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* one morning last week. No fault of theirs was it that they knew no better than every newspaper save one in the U. S., no fault of theirs that a White House stenographer had forgotten to give Secretary Stephen Early for release a letter that the President had dictated night before, a few minutes before starting for South America:

"Dear Rex:

"I fully understand the reasons that make you feel you should, for a while at least, return to private life within the next few months. You have given generously and efficiently of your services to the Government for these past four years, and I want you to know that later on I fully expect to ask you to come back to render additional service."

Only a scoop by the New York *Times* set newshawks on the track, caused the mislaid letter to be found next day.

Exit. The reason for Professor Tugwell's abrupt departure from the New Deal, although his leave of absence from Columbia University does not expire until next June, was not officially explained. Personal reasons might have caused it: his wife recently left Washington and returned to Manhattan. But his official position in Washington had also grown uncomfortable. He still enjoyed the Presidential favor, particularly shown in a visit to his Greenbelt satellite city (TIME, Nov. 23). However, his Resettlement Administration, with its high costs (administrative overhead 13¢ on the dollar) and record of questionable success, faced difficulty in getting new appropriations from Congress. In parts of the South many a no-good farmer who has been "rehabilitated" now drives along the road with his new mule, new wagon, new harness grinning down at the "leading citizen" of the community sweating in his lower 40 to pay the interest on his mortgage, with an old mule, spliced harness and last year's ploughlines. All this Dr. Tugwell classifies as prejudice and dismisses, but Congressmen at home among their constituents do not like it. In order to get more money out of Congress and to launch a new plan for lending $50,000,000 a year to help tenant farmers buy their homes, Dr. Tugwell hoped to get RA transferred to the Department of Agriculture. Only flaw in the plan was that Secretary of Agriculture Wallace did not want to take the responsibility of turning Dreamer Tugwell loose with so much money.

Last week when the news of Dr. Tugwell's resignation broke, he and Secretary Wallace were making a tour of Resettlement projects—a tour originally planned to stir Mr. Wallace's enthusiasm for them. Before it began, however, it had turned into a farewell tour. When newshawks caught up with them at Memphis, Henry Wallace loyally declared: "You know, Rex has been one of the most vigorous fighters for the capitalistic system that I know of. . . . Men of Tugwell's courage and insight are rare. We shall all regret that he is no longer in Government."

By the time the travelers reached Mississippi it was evident that Rex Tugwell had done well to resign before the trip. Mr. Wallace looked over the Tugwell projects with definite gloom, showed himself far from impressed by the ambiguous reports given by farmers whom RA had "rehabilitated," intimated that the Government's plans for making tenants into farm-owners would have to proceed cautiously rather than idealistically. They also saw the Rust cotton picker in action. Said Mr. Wallace pessimistically, "It's too bad that so much of the cotton fell to the ground." Dr. Tugwell, more hopeful, thought the mechanical picker had come to stay. "But," he hastened to add, "don't ask me. I'm a molasses man."

Federal Funds - 1936

Subsistence Homesteads-

RESETTLEMENT PROJECT IN EAST TEXAS

Farms to Be Provided 120 Families; Wiley College Gives Support

WASHINGTON. — The Resettlement Administration has announced its first Negro project west of the Mississippi river. It will provide farms for 120 landless farmers in Harrison county, East Texas. This county is 61 per cent Negro, freed slaves having flocked there immediately after the Civil war upon the rumor that the entire county would be given over to them.

Several thousand Negro farm families living within a radius of 25 miles of this project are expected to follow the leadership of the Resettlement group in cooperative production and marketing, and also in community, social, and recreational activities.

Dr. M. W. Dogan, president of Wiley college, has been one of the leading men in promoting the project.

Land on which these families will be located is in the sandy-timber area. It is being acquired at a maximum price of $15 an acre, whereas land farms in other sections of Texas sell for $75 to $100 an acre. Nevertheless, this sandy land when properly cultivated has won the lion's share of agricultural honors. A contest staged by the local Chamber of Commerce in Harrison county a few years ago showed that the land could be built up within four years from a production of 1-5 of a bale of cotton to practically a full bale per acre.

5,000 Negro Farmers In County

There are 5,000 Negro farmers in Harrison county of whom less than 1-3 own their land. In all of Texas, there are 7,000 Negro famrers of whom 51,000 are tenants. One-half of the tenants are "croppers" who depend upon their landlord for tools, teams and supplies.

Farms in the Harrison county project will be considerably higher in value per acre than the average in that county or in the state as a whole.

D. P. Trent is director of the Resettlement Administration in Texas and Oklahoma.

This project is located near the junction of the Harrison-Panola county line and the Sabine river. About 20 per cent of the purchased area is too rough or too wet to permit tillage, but can be utilized for timber or pasture.

It is estimated that cash income from each farm will total $880, of which $690 will be from crops and $180 from livestock. This is in addition to $380 worth of crops to be consumed on the farm, and $118 worth of livestock products consumed there.

The estimate of production is as follows: Cotton, 15 acres, 2,475 pounds of lint; corn and peas, 17 acres, 340 bushels; grain sorghum, 5 acres, 20 tons; soy beans, 5 acres, 10 tons; sweet potatoes, 2 acres, 200 bushels; sugar cane, 1 acre, 150 gallons; garden and orchard, home use; pasture, 17 acres, grazing 10 to 12 animals; timber, 15 acres, 15,000 feet.

$150 A Year From Cows

Three cows on each farm are estimated to yield an income of $150 a year, of which $35 will be used at home. One hog is expected to produce $100 worth of pork, of which $40 worth will be used at home. The 25 chickens are expected to produce 100 fryers and 225 dozen eggs of which $43 worth will be used at home.

Each of the 120 farms will have a barn, a poultry house, a hog house, a pump-house, and a pit toilet. Houses will be of wood, on concrete pier foundations.

Fifty-five of the houses will have three rooms, 47 will have four rooms, and 18 will have five rooms. This distribution is in line with the proportion of families of various sizes among the Negroes now living in this area.

A community building has been planned which will include an auditorium, stage, sewing room, library, and a kitchen for cooking and canning.

This project has received the indorsement of Dr. T. W. Walton president of Texas A and M. college; Gov. James V. Allred, governor of Texas; M. G. Blalock, chairman of state Democratic executive committee; Wright Patman, congressman from the first district, Texas; Morris Sheppard, senior senator from Texas; Tom Connally, junior senator from Texas; Prof. W. R. Banks, principal of Prairie View Industrial and Normal school; Bishop R. E. Jones, representing the New Orleans area M. E. church, and the general educational board for Negro education, New York.

NEGRO RE-SETTLEMENTS IN MISSOURI.

The hopes and aspirations of the Negroes in Missouri that the National Administration for rehabilitation and resettlement would reach the Negroes of this state suffered a setback following the decision of the District Court in Washington to the effect that it was unconstitutional.

Just why none of these re-settlement projects reached the Negroes of the state has been the cause of much speculation even now. Interested persons have contacted Senators and many of our representatives in Congress as well as the Governor of the State, and the State Relief Administrator, Mr. Crossley, but nothing has been done.

It has been pointed out to these officials the great need from the government for over thirty thousand farmers in the Southeast portion of this state, whose hearts have yearned for aid to keep their children from crowding the cities where they would become the prey of crime and idleness. Appeal after appeal have fallen on deaf ears and indifferent minds of certain officials. One group of interested farmers describing the situation in the Southeast part of the state said, "As the heart panteth for the waterbrook, so have our souls yearned for government relief." This group sent representatives to St. Louis seeking aid, St. Louis sent representatives to Washington seeking aid, but nothing has been done for the group that needed help.

We make this statement with the hope that something may be done by the government in assisting these most deserving people. Despite the fact as stated above, we still have faith in the good intentions of President Roosevelt in that there should be no discrimination and that the help thus extended by the government should reach every deserving citizen, be they ever so humble.

Southerners Urged To Join Forces In Solving No. 1 Problem—Tenancy

Brooks Hays, national representative of the Resettlement Administration who visited the regional offices here, called on Southerners to work together in solving their mutual problems, the most pressing of which is the increase in tenancy with its consequent undermining of social values.

Mr. Hays reviewed the accomplishments of the Resettlement Administration in Alabama where a total of approximately 14,000 families involving 70,000 individuals have been rehabilitated. The total cost of the rehabilitation program in this State is placed at $2,500,000 to date with an average outlay of $184 a family.

Pointing out that the cost of rehabilitation was much less than that of direct relief, Mr. Hays added that "these families are enabled to retain their self-respect and become permanent assets to their respective communities rather than permanent liabilities." In addition, he said the greater portion of rehabilitation loans will be ultimately repaid, many of them having already been repaid, and the Federal Government will ultimately suffer no permanent loss as in the case of direct relief.

"Of the families rehabilitated under this program a majority were already relief cases and would have constituted permanent burdens. Instead of giving them food and clothing from week to week the Government has furnished them with equipment and they have become producers as well as consumers," he said.

The more spectacular phase of the resettlement program which includes the Walker County and Cumberland Mountain settlements has attracted the most public attention, Mr. Hays said. However, this phase involves less than one per cent of the total families with which the Resettlement Administration is dealing.

Mr. Hays paid tribute to Alabama's representatives in both the House and Senate and declared that their leadership was a potent force in behalf of the liberal and progressive phases of the New Deal program.

The farm debt adjustment service of the Resettlement Administration was also cited by Mr. Hays as being of particular advantage to the agricultural sections of the South. Committees made up of merchants and business men in various counties have been serving voluntarily in aiding debt-ridden farmers to straighten out their affairs. In Alabama 2,410 farmers have been aided in this manner, resulting in a reduction of their collective debts of approximately $200,000. Approximately $97,000 in State, county and city taxes was paid following such settlements.

Mr. Hays, who addressed the organization meeting of the Alabama Policy Committee at Auburn, said he believed such policy committees, which are functioning in most of the Southern States, would be instrumental in mobilizing enlightened public opinion. The Southeastern States, he said, had many mutual problems that could best be faced in a spirit of cooperation. He pointed out that in his own State, Arkansas, the nature of tenancy and consequently its remedies were almost identical with Alabama's.

"The various State policy committees, working through the Southern Policy Committee, will furnish a medium for the exchange of opinion and a concentration of effort," Mr. Hays declared.

Subsistence Homesteads- Mitchell Mill Self-Help Co-operative.

Federal Funds-1936

Tuskegee's Red Project Succeeds with U. S. Aid

Photo-American 7-25-36

240 Persons Work on 532-Acre Farm Without Getting Paid and Like It.

By Staff Correspondence

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — The "Mitchell Mill Self-Help Co-operative" project, located about three miles east of here and supervised by Tuskegee Institute, is attracting considerable attention, especially from Washington.

Baltimore Sun

Mitchell Mill was owned by a white lumber company employing approximately 100 colored hands. A little over a year ago the company went into the hands of a receiver and all of the colored employees were thrown out of a job, and out of homes.

These folk had saved no money, and were left to starve — and were actually starving. They appealed to the whites in the community and to the local relief authorities, but to no avail. Then they appealed to Tuskegee Institute for aid.

Dr. Patterson, principal of the institute; Lloyd Isaacs, treasurer; and Thomas M. Campbell, field agent for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, put their heads together. While they gave the group temporary relief they set out to make it permanent.

Got U.S. Loan

They asked the U.S. Government for a loan to buy a large piece of property to establish an agriculture experiment known as a co-operative self-help project.

The request was granted and Tuskegee, after looking around, decided to purchase the Mitchell Mill property, consisting of 532 acres, and let the 100 stranded and destitute families stay right there. The property cost $68,000, all of which was borrowed from the government.

Samuel Fugate of Russelville, Ky., who was graduated in agriculture in the class of '34, was put in charge.

No Money Paid

The old shacks in which the stranded mill hands lived were renovated and painted green and white. Everyone was put to work. The men are allowed $1 a day for their labor, the women and children are allowed 65 cents a day.

However, they are not given any money. They are given slips of paper showing how much they have to their credit. These slips are used as currency and they may go to the project's commissary and get their groceries.

Each resident is charged so much for rent, which is recorded. They must work enough during the month to pay rent and the grocery bill.

Mill Transformed

Part of the old mill was turned into a cannery, part into a feed mill while another part has been turned into a planing mill and warehouse.

All kinds of fruit and vegetables are canned by some of women on the project, who put up an average of 6,000 cans daily. All surplus canned goods is taken to Montgomery and sold by a central co-operative commission merchant.

There are five co-operative projects in Alabama, but Tuskegee is operating the only colored one. All five haul their surplus produce to Montgomery to be sold by the same central merchant.

According to Mr. Isaacs, the profits will eventually be used to pay off, in cash, those whose accounts show that they have money due them.

Chickens, Hogs, Cotton Raised

In addition to the cannery, the project is raising several hundred chickens and has nearly a hundred head of hogs. They also have thirty-five more acres planted in cotton.

Along the highway they are building a gigantic fruit market and gasoline station.

Mr. Fugate, the manager, said there are 240 persons on the project living in 62 houses. New buildings are in the process of erection.

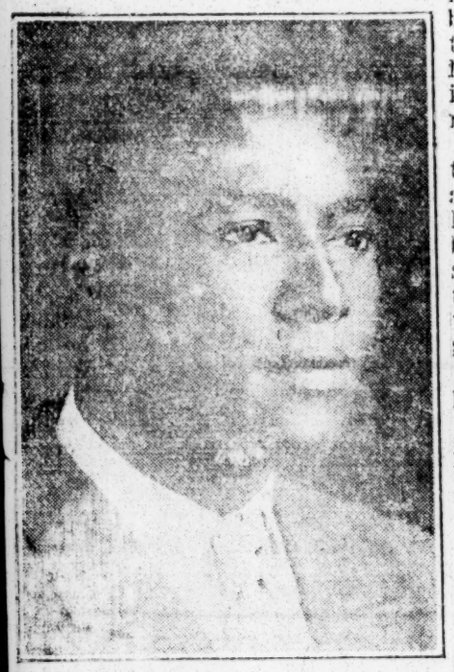
They have no fights or murders on this project, according to reports. The men cannot get whiskey or shoot craps because they have no money, thus everything is peaceful and quiet. They have night schools and a community church.

While Tuskegee is to be commended for the work it is doing, Russia's Stalin would certainly have had satisfaction in knowing that the communistic form of government is fast becoming a reality in the U.S.

Federal Funds-1936

Tuskegee Resettlement Area Project.
6

Fine Progress Being Made On Negro Submarginal Land Project



THOS. N. ROBERTS
Project Manager

Tuskegee, Ala. Increasing from thirty-five workers when it began operations on December 9, 1935, to three hundred and fifty workers at the close of business on March 21, 1936, is an example of the development progress in the Tuskegee Planned Land Use Demonstration. This project is one of the thirteen Land Use Projects in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina which make up Region five of the Resettlement administration. Mr. Robert W. Hudgens is Regional Director for Region V; Dr. W. A. Hartman is Assistant Director in charge of Land Utilization, and Thomas N. Roberts is Project Manager of the Tuskegee Project.

The purpose of the Tuskegee Planned Land Use Demonstration is to take out of production 10,000 acres of submarginal land most of which is badly eroded worn out and not suited for farming. Deep gullies, washed sillsides and sand filled bottoms can be seen all over the project

Not only does the land show heavy signs of wear and tear but the people on it are in distress. Their homes and the land on which they live are rapidly decaying—poverty is common in the area.

Most of the one hundred and thirty nine families, totaling about five hundred persons now living on the project area, will be given an opportunity to resettle on better land and begin to purchase a small farm of their own, some others will be given rehabilitation aid on better tracts while others will be provided project employment.

Reforestation, pasture building, erosion control and recreational development are the four main types of work to be accomplished on the Tuskegee project. Landscaping will be done at important development points in the area.

Studies by land use experts have shown that most of the land in the submarginal area is best adapted for the growing of trees. The nature of the land will not permit clean cultivation over a long period of time. Up to March 21, over 300,000 longleaf, loblolly and slash pine, locust, osage orange and white oak seedlings and trees have been set out in that part of the project along U. S. highway 80 and secondary roads and trails in the area. Within two years these seedlings will not only change the naked appearance of hills and valleys along the highway but will check erosion.

Driving through the area along the roads and trails results of the forest stand improvement and general clean-up can be seen. Undesirable trees and underbrush have been grubbed or cut. This brush has been used in the construction of more than 100 check and log dams on hillsides where erosion work is badly needed.

The construction of truck trails and park roads is well advanced on the project program. Before development started most of the farm roads in the area were in such bad condition that travel over them by car or wagon was very risky. 12 miles of trails and roads have been completed with bridges over the streams. These trails fom a net work which connects with main highways and roads. Many of these roads follow the contour of the hills and valleys. At this season of the year when the bodwoods and other trees are blooming these trails open up new avenues of enjoyment for our local citizens.

Not only do these trails and roads serve as scenic paths for motorists, persons walking or horseback riding, they also serve as means of forest fire protection. About seven miles of fire lanes around the boundary of the area have already been cut at the close of the week.

A forest nursery of twenty acres is planned as part of the development program. During this season five acres will be seeded to pine, oak, elm, magnolia and other species common to this section; 2 1-2 acres of the nursery have been planted already.

At the outset it was estimated that about two hundred men would be the daily peak load for the tuskegee project. This number was soon increased to three hundred and fifty men per day through the cooperation of the state PWA office in certifying for work former relief clients, Rural Rehabilitation clients, or persons to whom work was promised when their land was offered for sale to the government. The general success of the administration in getting the program underway was also a factor in increasing the number of men.

It is estimated that monthly payrolls on this project average about $7,000. This money is paid directly to workers who spend most of it for food, clothing and other necessary goods. Many workmen who came on the job with their feet wrapped in burlap bags are now wearing. Their dinner buckets are fuller and they look more cheerful. It is a common expression to hear workers on the job say "I'm sure glad that I can feed my family better and get them something to wear. I pray every night for this job to last so we can make some money to pay our debts and live better."

The workers on the Tuskegee project are not only being helped by the money they receive for their work; they are also getting valuable training in land conservation. When the tree planting began none of the planting crew had any experience. Willie P. Gunn, a former saw mill operator remarked, "I have cut and sawed many thousand trees, but I've never planted one" another worker said. "I didn't know you had to plant trees in the woods, I thought the Lord did that" The oldest member of the crew, John Berum, 77, observed after he had been convinced of the wisdom of planting trees in the woods, "I wish I was young so I could grow up with these trees; well, my grandchildren will enjoy them.

In their work dealing with roadside improvement, road and trail construction, and nursery development. The foremen are lessons are being taught to the workers. "This work is just like learning something new," said one of the young men on the project, who had to quit school because of lack of funds.

Care of tools is also an important part of the training work on the project. Each foreman takes a personal pride in keeping down breakage and the loss of tools by his crew. With more than 600 pieces of tools and small equipment in the field, to date one pick has been lost and six hatched handles broken, but this was due to faulty manufacture.

Foremen also vie with each other in quantity and quality of work done. Friendly rivalry among the crews has improved the quality of work and is developing a finer spirit of cooperation.

The health of the men is guarded closely during work hours. First aid kits are kept convenient to each crew. Trucks are available to transfer any injured persons for immediate medical care. The men are not permitted to drink from open springs and wells while on the job. Drinking water from the campus of Tuskegee Institute is transported to project each day.

Much of the success in the field operations is due to the fact that foremen and their crews are persons who have lived on the land and they are personally interested in its development. The foremen are W. P. Gunn, W. C. Davis, S. C. Chappelle, Hillard Chambliss, Carey Hall, John Parr, John Baker, Jim Smith, George Howard Jr. Leroy Mangham, Washington Smith, Tommie L. Goshade and Wallace Smith. Charles H. Gibson is development engineer, R. H. Richardson, John M. Brooks and Harry Simms are supervisors.

According to Thomas N. Roberts, project manager, federal officials who have recently visited the project have expressed much satisfaction in the work that is being done and the fine spirit of cooperation the project is receiving generally.—Tuskegee News.

SAVING OF LAND IN STATE IS PROPOSED

RA Suggests 3,405,000 Acres Be Withdrawn From Use In Agriculture

By BEN GRANT
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—(AP)—The Resettlement Administration announced today it had been advised by state land planning consultants that in order to conserve Alabama's land resources 3,405,000 acres should be withdrawn from agricultural use.

Already, resettlement officials said, plans are under way to retire 148,464 acres from production through the organization's four land retirement projects in the State. A total of $892,785 is budgeted for that purpose.

In addition, they said, the land development program will be employed on all the projects at a total estimated cost of $1,622,909. July 1 reports said 16,086 men were working on the areas.

Records at headquarters here showed 366 of the 563 families living on submarginal areas within the retirement project [illegible] are dependent upon the administration for assistance in resettling.

The Tuskegee project in Macon County covers an area of 10,358 acres, and the cost of land retirement is estimated at $119,980. Land development cost is estimated at $112,500.

At the west Alabama project in Bibb,

Hale, Perry and Tuscaloosa Counties, 97,482 acres are involved, and retirement cost will be $412,598. Development estimate was $712,500.

The Pea River project in Coffee and Dale Counties is estimated to cost $281,811 for retirement and $361,125 for development. It covers an area of 32,335 acres.

A total of 8,289 acres will be purchased at the Oak Mountain project in Shelby County for a retirement program estimated at $78,396 and development expected to cost $436,784.

In Alabama the Resettlement Administration has approved 11 rural resettlement projects, which at a total of $9,200,399 were designed to provide for 1,396 families.

Five Jefferson County projects—Slaghead Village, Palmer Homesteads, and Greenwood Homesteads—are designed to provide for the resettlement of 660 families at a cost of $4,039,213.

The two units of Bankhead Farms in Walker will take care of 100 families at a cost of $402,475. The Cumberland Mountain project in Jackson County, which will provide for 215 families, is estimated to cost $1,852,324.

Coffee Farms in Coffee County, to cost $2,018,927, is designed for 261 families, while the 100-family Alabama Tenant Security project in 30 counties is to cost $350,000. Prairie Farms in Macon County will provide for 60 families at a cost of $537,400.

Final plans are being prepared on the three units of Tuskegee Homesteads in Lowndes, Montgomery and Macon Counties. They will provide for 100 families.

Land Payment Checks Received Tuskegee Project

Tuskegee, Ala.

On Monday, October 19, Mr. Mac Beatty, Special attorney, Department of Justice, delivered to vendors two checks for land payment on the Tuskegee Plannd Land Use Demonstration Project, LD AL 8. These checks were in the amount of $1,789.00 and covered 190 acres of land. The vendors were W. P. and Rosa Gunn and Ben Harris. Powell & Powell, Abstractors; Watkins C. Johnston, Title Examiner, and Thomas N. Roberts, Project Manager, represented the Resettlement Administration in closing out these tracts.